



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

July 5, 2005

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

**SACRAMENTO UPDATE**

**Status of County-Interest Legislation**

**County-supported if amended AB 109 (Chan)**, which would require county First 5 commissions to: 1) adopt policies regarding conflict of interest and contracting and procurement procedures; 2) adopt a limit on the amount of their operating budgets that can be spent on administrative functions; 3) adopt policies and processes establishing the salaries and benefits of employees of the county commission; and 4) send their annual audit and report to the State First 5 Commission, was amended on June 27, 2005.

The amendments delete the provisions which: 1) allow the State Commission to withhold funds from county commissions which failed to submit the required reports; 2) authorize the State Controller to recommend to the State Commission that it withhold that allocation of money until the Controller determines the county commission has corrected its practices as necessary to respond to the audit findings; and 3) require the Controller to issue guidelines for expanded annual audits of county commissions. AB 109 was also double-joined to SB 35 (Florez), which also addresses responsibilities of First 5 Commissions, and will only become law if SB 35 is enacted and becomes operative.

The County will continue to support AB 109 if amended to require stronger fiscal oversight by the State without affecting local control. This measure is set for hearing on July 6, 2005 in the Senate Local Government Committee.

**County-supported AB 208 (Gordon and Parra)**, which would authorize school districts that have elected to become a school district of choice prior to April 1, 2005, to give priority for transfers to the children of military personnel, and establish specific time

lines within which such a transfer may be requested by the parent or guardian, and must be resolved by the school district, passed the Senate Education Committee on June 29, 2005 by a vote of 10 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate floor.

**County-supported AB 338 (Levine)**, which would require the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to use increasing amounts of crumb rubber from waste tires in State highway, construction, and repair projects, passed the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee on June 29, 2005 with technical amendments, by a vote of 8 to 5, and now proceeds to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

**County-supported AB 547 (Berg)**, which would repeal the requirement that a city or county authorize its needle exchange program through a declaration of a local public health emergency every two weeks, passed the Senate Health Committee with amendments on June 29, 2005 by a vote of 7 to 4, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **AB 547** would further authorize clean needle exchange programs upon the action by a county board of supervisors, and the local health officer or health commission, or upon the action of a city council, the mayor, and the local health officer. As amended, **AB 547** would delete the provision that decriminalizes possession of needles by participants in needle exchange programs. It would require local governments to hold an annual public meeting that would allow interested stakeholders, including law enforcement, an opportunity to provide comments on needle exchange programs.

**County-supported AB 717 (Gordon)**, which would require the Centinela Airport Clinic to receive reimbursement rates that are equivalent to that of a contiguous emergency department of a general acute care hospital if the clinic meets certain criteria, failed passage in the Senate Health Committee on June 29, 2005, by a vote of 3 to 6. Opponents and members of the committee were concerned that this bill could set a precedent for other clinics to receive such reimbursement rates. Reconsideration was granted.

**County-opposed AB 761 (Jones)**, which would require general acute care hospitals, acute psychiatric hospitals, and special hospitals to consider guidelines developed by relevant professional associations, if available, to determine staffing levels and to consider worker injury rates and patient injury rates, passed the Senate Health Committee with amendments on June 29, 2005 by a vote of 7 to 4, and now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The amendments specify that the guidelines used to determine staffing must be subject to peer review and based on scientific and medical evidence. These amendments do not remove the County's opposition.

**County-sponsored AB 1285 (Montañez)**, which would expand eligibility for participation in the Investing in Early Educators stipend program to include persons working in licensed family child-care homes and child-care centers that do not hold California Department of Education contracts, passed the Senate Human Services Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 6 to 1, and now proceeds to the Senate

Appropriations Committee. The bill was amended on June 23, 2005 to give priority to current eligible participants.

**County-supported AB 1380 (Gordon)**, which would create rules for determining the inventory of numbering resources applicable to the telecommunications carriers that hold numbers (codes or blocks within rate centers) in California, to avoid the premature exhaustion of an area code, was amended on June 27, 2005.

The amendments: 1) require the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to request the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to delegate authority to the CPUC to implement inventory management guidelines to ensure carrier compliance with 6-month inventory rules and timing for donations and returns to the numbering pool; 2) require the commission to develop rules that ensure compliance with FCC numbering resource optimization orders; and 3) require these rules to be implemented immediately upon the delegation of authority by the FCC, and specify that other requirements would be placed upon telephone corporations regarding the inventory of numbering resources applicable if the CPUC fails to develop and implement rules by July 31, 2006. This measure is currently in the Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee.

**County-supported AB 1565 (Pavley)**, which would authorize the California Children and Families Commission, in coordination with the State Departments of Education and Social Services and other interested parties, to develop a proposal for creating a statewide voluntary star quality rating system for child day-care facilities to encourage child-care providers to provide a higher standard and quality of care than is currently required under the California Child Day Care Act, passed the Senate Human Services Committee on June 28, 2005, as amended, by a vote of 6 to 1. The amendments: 1) establish a star-rating system pilot program with \$14 million of unspent one-time Federal Education funds that are now available for use because the Legislature rejected the use of the \$14 million for the Governor's tiered reimbursement proposal; and 2) specify that the criteria for the rating system be prepared by a Joint Legislative Committee. This measure now proceeds to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**County-sponsored AB 1769 (Negrete McCleod)**, authorizing the Board of Supervisors to allow the fire chief to work beyond his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, was given Assembly concurrence in Senate amendments on July 1, 2005 by a vote of 65 to 0, and now proceeds to the Governor.

**County-supported ACA 17 (Mullin)**, which would allow 17-year-olds to register to vote in a primary election if they will be 18 years old at the time of the general election, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on June 29, 2005, and will be considered later this summer.

**County-supported if amended SB 35 (Florez)**, which would require county First 5 commissions to: 1) adopt policies regarding conflict of interest and contracting and procurement procedures; 2) adopt a limit on the amount of their revenues that can be spent on administrative functions; 3) adopt policies and processes establishing the salaries and benefits of employees of the county commission; and 4) send their annual audit and report to the State First 5 Commission, passed the Assembly Local Government Committee, as amended, on June 29, 2005.

The amendments delete the provisions listed above but maintain the provisions requiring: 1) each county commission to submit its audit and report to the State First 5 Commission in a format prescribed by the State Commission; 2) the State Commission report to include a listing, by category, of the aggregate expenditures on program areas funded by the State and county commissions; 3) the Controller to issue guidelines for expanded annual audits of each county commission. The State Commission is still authorized to withhold funds allocated to the county commission if the county commission does not submit required information. SB 35 is now also double-joined to AB 109, which also addresses responsibilities of First 5 Commissions, and will only become law if AB 109 is enacted and becomes operative.

The County will continue to support SB 35 if amended to require stronger fiscal oversight by the State without affecting local control. This measure passed the Assembly Local Government Committee on June 29, 2005 by a vote of 7 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported SB 57 (Alarcon)**, which would augment the Emergency Medical Services Fund by allowing counties to collect an additional \$2 penalty assessment on every \$10 penalty for all criminal offenses and moving violations, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 8 to 4, and now proceeds to the Assembly Public Safety Committee.

**County-sponsored SB 116 (Dutton)**, which would repeal the sunset date on the Safely Surrendered Baby Program, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 9 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported and amended SB 153 (Chesbro)**, as amended on June 27, 2005, would enact the California Clean Water, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006, which, if adopted by voters, would authorize the issuance of \$3.595 billion in State General Obligation bonds for acquisition, development, restoration and preservation projects. The current bill increases available bond funds by \$595 million, identifies a broader range of resource projects, including non-motorized trails, natural history museums, aquariums, botanic gardens, river parkways, wildlife habitat and oak woodlands, and deletes a reference to a clean air program from the title of the previous bond measure.

Prior to the current amendment, SB 153 would have authorized the issuance of \$3 billion in State General Obligation bonds for resources protection, acquisition, and development, under the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2006. The bill, however, did not specify a funding allocation schedule for the available funds. The revised bill provides the structural funding allocation for financing a program for the acquisition, development, restoration and preservation of agricultural, coastal, cultural, forest, historical, park, recreational, and water resources.

SB 153 as amended has three major funding categories: Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks and Recreation Areas (\$1.72 billion), State Parks and Wildlife Protection (\$1.3 billion), and Water Quality and Coastal Protection (\$575 million). Under these programs, bond funding is specified for local assistance grants (\$500 million), urban and special needs park and recreation programs (\$500 million), clean beaches, watershed protection and water quality projects (\$200 million), the Ocean Protection Trust Fund (\$100 million), the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (\$100 million), and for land conservancies, including the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (\$40 million), the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (\$40 million), and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (\$40 million).

SB 153 provides that up to ten percent of the funds allocated under each program may be used to finance planning and monitoring necessary for successful project design, selection, and implementation. The bill specifies that funds approved for grants have to be encumbered within three years from the date of appropriation and projects must be completed within eight years of the effective date of appropriation.

The Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works recommend that the County continue to support SB 153. Since the bill still does not include beaches in the definition of parks for the purpose of qualifying for park funding programs, our Sacramento advocates will continue to work with the author to amend the bill. SB 153 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on July 5, 2005.

**County-supported SB 258 (Chesbro)**, which would require the State Department of Mental Health to establish a working group to develop recommendations for improvements to the quality of care in residential care facilities providing board, care and supervision of adults with mental illness, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on June 29, 2005 because of potential increased costs to the State's General Fund.

**County-supported SB 266 (Romero)**, which would require the State Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to establish a trauma care advisory committee to develop a statewide trauma care plan for presentation to the EMSA and the Legislature

by January 1, 2007, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 1, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported SB 267 (Romero)**, which would restructure the Trauma Care Fund to require regional distribution of funds based on the statewide proportion of trauma care services provided in a region, repeal the requirement that trauma centers receive a minimum level of funding, and require the grants to be awarded on a competitive basis, passed the Assembly Health Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 13 to 1, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported SB 399 (Escutia)**, which would allow counties to recover expenses for hospital and medical services provided to a Medi-Cal beneficiary who recovers damages from a judgment, arbitration award, or a settlement, passed the Assembly Judiciary Committee on June 28, 2005 by a vote of 6 to 3, and now proceeds to the Assembly Health Committee.

**County-supported SB 578 (Escutia)**, which would require a railroad corporation to promptly notify the Office of Emergency Services, the California Highway Patrol, and designated county public safety agencies in an endangered area, of certain information relative to hazardous materials, and in certain events, of train and track locations, whether or not an accident or spill occurs, passed the Assembly Transportation Committee on June 28, 2005 with technical amendments, by a vote of 10 to 3, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

**County-supported SB 640 (Escutia)**, which would appropriate \$5 million in one-time-only Federal quality carryover child development funds to continue local programs of training and technical assistance to child-care providers to increase their capacity to care for children with disabilities, and specifies the eligible uses of the funds received by child care resource and referral agencies, passed the Assembly Human Services Committee on June 29, 2005 by a vote of 5 to 0, and now proceeds to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:DW:JF:DS:MF:SZ:EW:MS:LY:ib  
c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Local 660  
All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations